

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
FISHERIES DIVISION

## JOB PROGRESS REPORT

## Research Project Segment

State: MontanaTitle: Reservoir InvestigationsProject No: F-34-R-12Title: Noxon Rapids - Cabinet Gorge  
Reservoir StudyJob No: I-aPeriod Covered: July 1, 1977 - June 30, 1978

## ABSTRACT

Management of Noxon Rapids and Cabinet Gorge Reservoirs to maintain a salmonid fishery has been extremely difficult. Past management efforts meeting with little success have included planting kokanee, rainbow trout, brown trout, Yellowstone cutthroat trout and burbot. Small numbers of each of these fish species can be found in the reservoirs at this time.

Noxon Rapids and Cabinet Gorge Reservoirs are run-of-the-river hydroelectric impoundments having rapid water exchange rates, low plankton populations and low aquatic insect productivity. Yet, they still represent 12,500 surface acres of water that should sustain some level of acceptable sport fishing and recreational use.

## OBJECTIVE

The objective of this project segment in Fiscal-Year 1978 was to attempt to establish westslope cutthroat trout in Noxon Rapids Reservoir. Methods to attempt establishment of this species were to make imprint plants of young-of-the-year fish into four tributaries and make in-reservoir plantings of surplus hatchery fish.

Four tributaries of Noxon Rapids Reservoir (Grave, Swamp, Trout and Clear Creeks) were planted with young-of-the-year cutthroat in July, 1977. These same creeks will be planted again in summer 1978. About 200,000 fingerling cutthroat were planted directly into Noxon Rapids Reservoir as first priority to receive fish surplus to other Montana needs.

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